

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

security hardware for storing security key information so that it can be freely read and written;

OS start admission means for determining whether or not input data for user certification is valid when an OS starts based on said security key information read from said security hardware and admitting the OS to start if the determination result is positive;

security key information restoration means for restoring the security key information in the security hardware based on predetermined data for restoration;

OS start type selection means for selecting and executing either a first type OS start for generating a system status in which said security key information restoration means is operable (hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating said OS start admission means or a functionally restricted second type OS start for generating a functionally restricted system status in which said security key information restoration means is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating said OS start admission means, and said method causing a computer to execute:

a cancellation step in which cancellation means cancels the operation of said OS start admission means as to the first type OS start after it is generated; and

a cancel release step in which cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means after the first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission means canceled by said cancellation means is executed at least once.

2. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the input data for user certification is the data keyed in by the user on the first type OS start.

3. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said data for restoration is generated on generating the security key information in the security hardware so as to render the security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage.

4. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting the OS, said OS start type selection means detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute the first type OS start in the case of "no" and the second type OS start in the case of "yes" respectively.

5. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim

1, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the OSes stored in different auxiliary storage respectively, and when said second OS is readable from the auxiliary storage storing said second OS, said OS start type selection means selects and executes the second type OS start in preference to the first type OS start.

6. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein there is an erasure step of having said cancel release means erased by erasure means after said cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means.

7. The method for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein there is a step of having said erasure means generated by said cancel release means.

8. A service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus having security hardware for storing security key information so that it can be freely read and written comprising:

OS start admission means for determining whether or not input data for user certification is valid when an OS starts based on said security key information read from said security hardware and admitting the OS to start if the determination result is positive;

security key information restoration means for restoring the security key information

in the security hardware based on predetermined data for restoration;

OS start type selection means for selecting and executing either a first type OS start for generating a system status in which said security key information restoration means is operable (hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating said OS start admission means or a functionally restricted second type OS start for generating a functionally restricted system status in which said security key information restoration means is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating said OS start admission means, and said method causing a computer to execute:

a cancellation step in which cancellation means cancels the operation of said OS start admission means as to the first type OS start after it is generated; and

a cancel release step in which cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means after the first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission means canceled by said cancellation means is executed at least once.

9. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the input data for user certification is the data keyed in by the user on the first type OS start.

10. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to

Claim 8, wherein said data for restoration is generated on generating the security key information in the security hardware so as to render the security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage.

11. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting the OS, said OS start type selection means detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute the first type OS start in the case of "no" and the second type OS start in the case of "yes" respectively.

12. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the OSes stored in different auxiliary storage respectively, and when said second OS is readable from the auxiliary storage storing said second OS, said OS start type selection means selects and executes the second type OS start in preference to the first type OS start.

13. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein there is an erasure step of having said cancel release means erased by erasure means after said cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means.

14. The service enabling the control of an information processing apparatus according to

Claim 13, wherein there is a step of having said erasure means generated by said cancel release means.

15. A computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus having security hardware for storing security key information which can be freely read and written comprising:

OS start admission means for determining whether or not input data for user certification is valid when an OS starts based on said security key information read from said security hardware and admitting the OS to start if the determination result is positive;

security key information restoration means for restoring the security key information in the security hardware based on predetermined data for restoration;

OS start type selection means for selecting and executing either a first type OS start for generating a system status in which said security key information restoration means is operable (hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating said OS start admission means or a functionally restricted second type OS start for generating a functionally restricted system status in which said security key information restoration means is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating said OS start admission means, and said method causing a computer to execute:

a cancellation step in which cancellation means cancels the operation of said OS

start admission means as to the first type OS start after it is generated; and

a cancel release step in which cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means after the first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission means canceled by said cancellation means is executed at least once.

16. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the input data for user certification is the data keyed in by the user on the first type OS start.

17. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said data for restoration is generated on generating the security key information in the security hardware so as to render the security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage.

18. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting the OS, said OS start type selection means detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute the first type OS start in the case of "no" and the second type OS start in the case of "yes" respectively.

19. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the first and second type OS starts are the starts based on the OSes stored in different auxiliary storage respectively, and when said second OS is readable from the auxiliary storage storing said second OS, said OS start type selection means selects and executes the second type OS start in preference to the first type OS start.

20. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein there is an erasure step of having said cancel release means erased by erasure means after said cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means.

21. The computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein there is a step of having said erasure means generated by said cancel release means.